

harrassed by the quarrels of the Arab chiefs and the attacks of the Bedouins.

Nazareth was much visited by pilgrims, especially during the middle ages. St. Francis of Assisi and St. Louis King of France both visited the place the former in 1219 the latter in 1263. When the Christians were driven out of Nazareth in 1517, it lost all its importance, but in 1620 the Franciscans were allowed to return, and it regained its former importance. At present it is a town of about 9,000 inhabitants of whom there are 1,900 Moslems, 2,900 Greek schismatics, 4000 Catholics of the Latin, Greek and Maronite rites, and 200 Protestants. It is beautifully situated on the slope of a high hill in the form of a semi-circle like an amphitheatre. Most of the inhabitants are engaged in farming and gardening and some in handicrafts. The various religions have their quarters as in all large cities in the East. It was only last century that the Greek schismatics got a foothold in Nazareth, and they did it in a way worthy of the Greek. First one family came and wanted to be received into the Catholic Church; they were instructed and received; then gradually 12 or 14 other families came and did the same; and finally a Greek schismatic priest wished to return to the Mother Church and was also received. They then asked for the church of St. Gabriel and were granted this favor, but as soon as they had possession of it they all returned to their schismatic religion and kept church, land and everything. Indeed the old saying of Virgil is still applicable: "*Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*," I fear the Greeks even when they bring gifts.

The Franciscans have a monastery, a hospice for pilgrims, a beautiful large convent and school at Nazareth. The Clarisses and the Sisters of St. Joseph also have large well attended schools. The Brothers of Mercy have a nice hospital and the Salesians have a large magnificent new school for boys where besides the regular course of studies, all kinds of trades are taught. The Protestant have a church, hospital and Bible depot.

The Church of the Annunciation belonging to the Franciscans is about 70ft. long and 50ft. wide, and has a nave and two aisles. It contains a good pipe organ and some fine paintings, among which is an Annunciation and a Mater Dolorosa by Terrallo of the Spanish School. The Crypt is below the High Altar. A handsome flight of marble steps descends to the vestibule called the Angel's chapel. On the right is the altar of St. Joachim and on the left that of the Arch-Angel Gabriel. Here the angel saluted the Most Blessed Virgin and announced to her the mystery of the Incarnation of the Word; and here the purest the grandest; as well as the most humble of all women answered: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to Thy word." On the Altar in the chapel of the Annunciation, which is just two steps lower, is the Latin inscription: "Here He was subject to